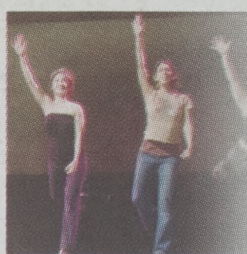




OPINION PG. 2
THE BLAME GAME
 EMPLOYERS MUST TAKE
 PARTIAL RESPONSIBILITY
 FOR IMMIGRANTS.



VALLEY LIFE PG. 4
NEW MUSICAL DEBUTS
 ATLANTIC CITY'S
 FAMED "STEEL PIER"
 SETS THE SCENE.



SPORTS PG. 5
MONARCHS FALL TO 6-3
 VALLEY SOFTBALL'S
 FIRST-PLACE TIE
 DIDN'T LAST LONG.



GALLERY PG. 6
WALKING FOR RIGHTS
 THOUSANDS OF STUDENTS
 MARCH AGAINST A PROPOSED
 IMMIGRATION BILL.

WWW.LAVC.EDU

WWW.LAVALLEYSTAR.COM

VALLEY STAR

THE INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF LOS ANGELES VALLEY COLLEGE

VOLUME 64, ISSUE NO. 5

MARCH 29, 2006

It's YOUR NEWSPAPER

High School Students Walk Out, March in Protest of Proposed Immigration Legislation

BY TAMMY FUNICELLO
 EDITOR IN CHIEF

Approximately 2,000 students marched past Grant High School Monday heading for Van Nuys City Hall as part of a nationwide protest against a bill that will turn 12 million illegal immigrants into instant felons.

That group was a small part of the more than 40,000 students who walked out of school and marched all over Southern California streets and freeways. Students continued to march on Tuesday, with all protestors monitored by police to keep things peaceful.

"We are marching for our rights," said protestor and Grant High School student Rubi Garcia. "I don't think we should get kicked out of the United States because it was built on us."

The protests have been going since Friday. Over the weekend more than 500,000 people peacefully marched downtown waving flags and chanting for their rights over the bill HR 4437. The bill was passed by the House of Representatives in December and would make all illegal immigrants felons. The Senate came

see 'Protest' page 3



MARCHING ON - Grant High School student protestors wave the Mexican flag during Monday's walkout. Students showed their opposition to the proposed immigration bill that would make it a felony to be an undocumented immigrant living in the United States. More than 2,000 students marched from Grant to the Federal Building in Van Nuys.

ALEX FAYVIL / VALLEY STAR

See page 6, Gallery

Sheriff Cracks Down on Forgery

BY THERESA WRAY
 SPECIAL TO THE STAR

The Valley College Sheriff's Station has issued 1,800 tickets this semester to students who have either forged parking permits or had no permits at all displayed in their vehicles.

The business office typically has 10,000 parking permits available each semester. This semester, only 8,500 stickers have been sold. "We have plenty of parking permits left but some students don't want to purchase them," said Mary Ann Miller of the business office. "They're forging them instead."

This is not a new violation. Officers confiscated at least one forged parking pass per week last semester. The sheriff's office is working with other departments to create new ways of catching these violations. "We're on top of it," said Deputy Sheriff Tom Lynch. "Tickets are routinely issued for forged permits, no permits displayed and for parking in illegal spaces."

All forgery cases are criminally prosecuted through the court system. "The student ends up with a criminal record and could be kicked out of school or suspended," said Lynch. "The violation may also appear on the student's transcripts. All this can be avoided by paying a minor fee of \$20 for a valid parking pass."

The 8,500 students who have purchased their valid permits share approximately 3,000 parking spaces at various times, depending on their class schedules. "It is difficult enough to find a parking space during peak hours," said Megan Birmingham, a frustrated evening student who often circles all six parking lots looking for a spot. "We shouldn't have to compete with students who aren't willing to pay for a space."

Valley offers more parking spaces than some of the other eight campuses in the Los Angeles Community College District. At Valley, a student can choose among six different parking lots. At Pierce College, a \$20 parking pass will allow students to park in only two lots located much farther away from the campus buildings. The alternative for Pierce students is to purchase a \$27 preferred permit. These preferred parking spaces are located closer to the campus buildings and they fill up fast. Most evening students purchase the preferred permits to avoid walking long distances alone at night.

It's not too late to purchase a valid parking pass. The business office is open until 6:45 p.m. on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, and until 3:45 p.m. on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays. Students may also purchase a parking permit through the automated phone system.

"It costs some students more time and energy to create a forged parking pass than to purchase a valid one," said Lynch.

A Fashion Statement

BY MAGGIE OWNBEY
 OPINION EDITOR

Wearing denim on April 19 will make a fashion statement: Stop Violence Against Women.

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month and Valley College will hold a Denim Day rally in Monarch Square to give women who have been sexually assaulted a voice and to promote prevention education and awareness. Denim Day began as part of an international protest following an Italian Supreme Court's decision to overturn a rape conviction because the victim wore jeans. The justices stated in their decision that, "it is common knowledge that jeans cannot even be partly removed without the effective help of the person wearing them." Therefore it must have been consensual sex. "It's not the first time, not the only time and unfortunately not likely to be the last time that a lack of knowledge about sexual assault resulted in victim blaming deci-

sions and behavior," said Jae Weiss, director of prevention education at the Valley Trauma Center in Van Nuys which is working in collaboration with Valley on the event.

The Los Angeles Commission on Assaults Against Women has organized Denim Day in L.A., since 1999 as a protest to the Italian case.

"The number one priority [of Denim Day] is that the students realize that the campus cares about its students and that there are resources out there," said Reed Walsh, Team Leader of the Campus Violence Response Team.

Guest speakers representing advocate groups scheduled to appear include the Violence Intervention Project and Children of the Night.

"It's a balance of both reactive and pro-active information," said Walsh, coordinator of the event at Valley.

The event will include the

see 'Denim' page 3

Resnick Sweeps at State Speech Tournament

BY TAMMY FUNICELLO
 EDITOR IN CHIEF

The Valley College speech and debate team walked away with seven awards, including Rachel Resnick's three state titles, at the March 15-19 State Championship tournament in Concord.

Just last month Resnick became the first Valley student in history to qualify for the Interstate Oratory com-

petition, which is the most prestigious persuasive speaking competition and only two community college students from California qualified. At this month's state tournament she won first place in informative speaking, the after dinner speech and poetry. She also was the only competitor of approximately 300 students from 26 schools to receive first

see 'Speech' page 3

Valley Teams With LAUSD to Beat Exit Exam

BY LAGINA PHILLIPS
 MANAGING EDITOR

Valley College and the Los Angeles Unified School District have teamed up to help students pass the California High School Exit Exam, creating The Bridge to College Program.

"Very few community colleges have concerned themselves with this group of students," said Valley's Vice President of Student Services Yasmin Delahoussaye.

The partnership is the first of its kind and offers students who failed the Exit Exam the opportunity to enroll in three courses - English, math and career planning - during Valley's second summer session in preparation to re-take the exam in the fall.

The exam, which the LAUSD started administering in the 2000-2001 school year, has proven to be a challenge for many students. Of the 400,000 students who took the exam last year 25 percent failed. This concern prompted teaching legend Jaime Escalante's recent visit to Valley to discuss alternative teaching methods to educators and community members.

"We're very concerned about student who didn't pass," said Delahoussaye. "We don't want these students to give up on an education."

In addition to the courses the program offers financial aid and counseling assistance to ease the students into college after they pass the exam.

"This program will help them graduate and also help them plan for the future," said Program Director Joyce Romero.

The exam tests tenth grade English skill and math through beginning algebra. Students must

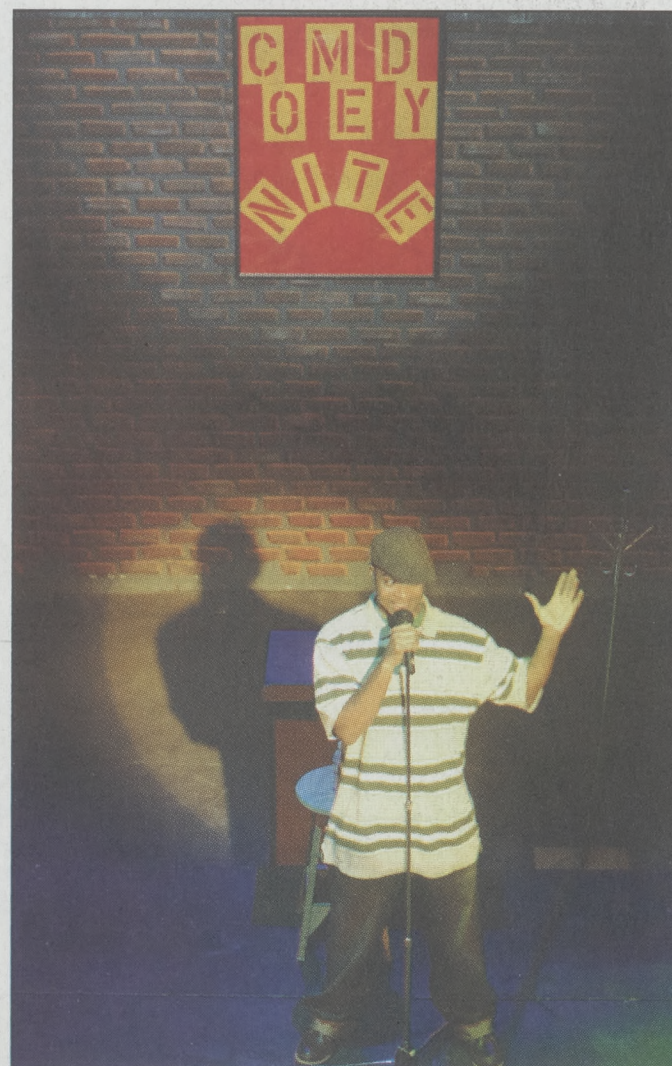
get 55 percent of the questions right to pass. High school students have four opportunities to pass the test, once in tenth grade, twice in eleventh and once in twelfth.

"The high school exit exam measures a minimum level of knowledge and skills that our students need to be successful in life after high school,"

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell said in a March 17 statement backing the requirement.

Since the state started administering the exam in 2001, students from the 2006 graduating class who don't pass the exam

see 'Exam' page 3



ARTAK AYVAZIAN / VALLEY STAR

TAKING A STAND - The ASU-sponsored "Comedy Nite" brought comedians and "Don: the part-time MC, part-time air traffic controller," above, to campus Thursday night.

See story, page 4

AN OPINION

Documenting Blame

BY BRIAN DEAN
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

An estimated 12 million undocumented immigrants currently live in the United States.

The reason: jobs.

Of course "undocumented" is yet another euphemism to avoid stating the obvious. There are laws governing the entry of foreigners into this country. If an individual enters the country by any other method, that individual has broken the law. And they shouldn't be rewarded for it.

The Senate Judiciary Committee struck down provisions of a previously approved House bill, HR 4437, that would have toughened border security and law enforcement.

This proposal would have also elevated the seriousness of unlawful border crossing to felony status, making it illegal to provide non-emergency humanitarian aid.

The demise of those provisions in the House bill is a good thing. The feasibility of tracking down and deporting 12 million overnight felons seems quite low unless the government resorts to questionably legal methods.

And to punish those whose moral duty compels them to lend a hand to people in need regardless of their citizenship status is just plain ridiculous.

But the fact remains that people who have crossed the border illegally and who have no legal permission to work in the United States are working; doing the jobs that American citizens allegedly won't do while being paid less than minimum wage.

And the Senate bill offers what amounts to an amnesty program by offering a road to citizenship without having to reenter the country legally as thousands of others do every year.

There are also laws governing who has the right to work in the United States. Employers who hire people who don't have that right are also breaking the law.

The solution to slow or perhaps reverse the trend of illegal immigration must start here.

If the Department of Labor went after such employers with half as much zeal as the IRS goes after tax cheats, the incentive for job-seekers to break immigration law would be eliminated.

Employers would then be forced to hire Americans who, for the right price, would indeed do the work.

If out-of-work Americans still refuse, a proper guest worker program may be in order.

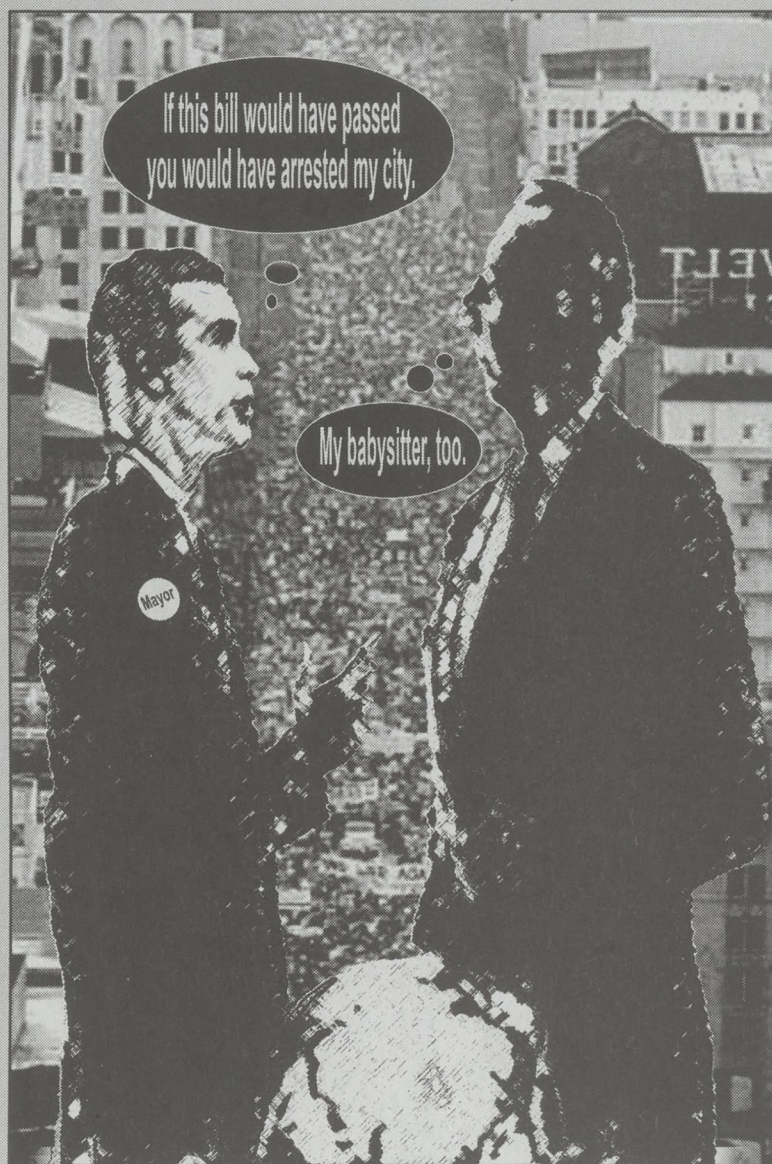


ILLUSTRATION BY JESUS ESQUIVEL / VALLEY STAR

The best possible solution to illegal immigration would be to grow the economies and eliminate corruption in the nations people flee.

But the alternative should not require us to look the other way when our laws and borders have been compromised.

Campus View

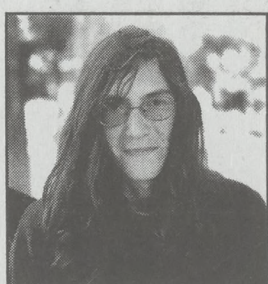
PHOTOS BY ARTAK AYVAZIAN

What do you think of the anti-immigration bill HR 4437, that would make it a felony to be an illegal immigrant?



"It's bad, however, if they have a reason for it they should be legalized."

-Nasima Zaman
Pre-Med



"If they're working hard to stay here they should be given a chance."

-Oran Ramirez
Undecided



"I think it's pretty pointless, a lot of California's backbone was immigrants. We were all immigrants at some point."

-Melissa Hernandez
Art



"It's terrible. People don't come here because they want to, they come here because they're starving."

-Francisco Licama
Psychology

AN OPINION

We Won't Get Fooled Again This Time

■ Is the Bush administration setting up a new game of dominos?

BY MAGGIE OWNBEY
OPINION EDITOR

Ever have a Déjà vu; you know that experience when you feel like you've lived through something before?

In his 2002 National Security Strategy plan President Bush pointed out that the development and acquisition of Weapons of Mass Destruction by terrorists and rogue states would require the U.S. to identify and destroy any terrorist threat before it reaches the U.S.

It's been three years since the war in Iraq began on March 19, 2003.

Now with more than 2,300 lives lost, more than 17,000 wounded, nearly \$250 million in cost and no WMD, on March 16, 2006 Bush issued a new National Security Strategy reaffirming his doctrine of pre-emptive war against terrorists and hostile states with chemical, biological or nuclear weapons.

Despite the lessons learned in Iraq where the numbers continue to go up and Bush sees no end in sight until well past his term as president ends in 2008, the new terror strategy appears to have its sights set to add Iran to the global war on terror.

Despite the fact that other countries including North Korea have nuclear weapons capabilities and Iran, a sovereign country with a democratically elected president, stands to gain nothing from making a first strike except the possibility of being wiped off the map.

The 2006 terror strategy states: "If necessary, under long-standing principles of self-defense, we do not rule out the use of force before attacks occur. When the consequences of an attack with WMD are potentially so devastating, we cannot afford to stand idly by as grave

dangers materialize."

"We may face no greater challenge from a single country than from Iran," the document says, echoing a statement made by Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice before the Senate Appropriations Committee earlier in March.

It recommitments to efforts with European allies to pressure Tehran to give up any aspirations of nuclear weapons, then adds ominously: "This diplomatic effort must succeed if confrontation is to be avoided."

Now I'm not a five-star general and I have no idea how the gear shifts in the war machine work but language that points the target at Iran certainly should raise our level of concern to at least a def-con one.

"The Bush administration actually believes that we can shape events such that we don't have to care about history, culture or anything — we can make things happen just by bringing

to bear the collective strength of our power," said author and former U.N. Weapons Inspector Scott Ritter. "That's why we believe that we can bomb Iran into submission."

Ritter adds that we don't have enough troops to put boots on the ground over there and that we are looking at an aerial assault campaign.

"When we do that we've taken the cork out of the nuclear genie bottle and it's not going back in," said Ritter.

We must challenge this administration's decisions and hold it accountable for its actions — it's American to do so.

Bush said in a statement made on Sept. 17, 2002, just months before the war in Iraq began, "There's an old saying in Tennessee — I know it's in Texas, probably in Tennessee — that says, fool me once, shame on you — shame on you. Fool me — you can't get fooled again."

You're right Mr. Bush, this time we won't get fooled again.

AN OPINION

"Race War" Fueled by the Media's Hype

■ Tensions run deeper than just race.

BY WILL REYES
STAFF WRITER

Gang wars have resulted in hundreds of injuries and two deaths in California prisons since this past February, exposing a serious problem and leading to the glorification of a so called "Race war" between black and Hispanic men.

The ongoing prison riots brought the sensitive subject of race relations between California's two biggest minority groups directly to center stage.

The problem with the news coverage is that they set their focus on the wrong issue, giving nearly all their attention to race and ignoring other factors.

California has 33 prisons with a total population of roughly 170,000 inmates; approximately 40 percent of which are Hispanic and 30 percent are black.

Many of those are non-violent offenders sent into a state corrections system that has a budget of more than \$7 billion dollars.

While racism is definitely a factor and a reality among today's poor California communities, which account for a significant number of the people sent into the prison system, it isn't the sole or even most important issue.

The recent violence is the result of a number of issues that go beyond much more than just gang-induced hate and skin color, but stem from exaggerated and harsh laws, segregationist prison policies and a lack of reform alternatives for criminals.

California's strict "Three Strikes" law is notorious for condemning criminals to long-term sentences for repeat convictions regardless of the severity of the crimes, and other broad anti-gang laws send many members to jail simply for being in a gang.

"California's answer to gangs is 25-to-life for teenagers," said J.R., a gang intervention speaker and former gang member who spent 12 years in prison.

The poor conditions present

in the areas where gangs thrive and the sense of belonging they give disadvantaged youth are never taken into account by the system that failed them.

Valid alternatives are rarely offered and young gang members are instead given a ticket to a "criminal university" that instills racism and harvests hate that spills back out onto the streets.

The U.S. Supreme Court recently outlawed the segregation of races in U.S. prisons.

California however, which has a long history of prison segregation, continues to separate inmates by race during emergencies.

That practice might seem like a valid solution on the surface, but it reinforces the idea of "sticking with your own" into prisoners' minds and provides the perfect angle to news outlets who rely more on shock value than facts.

The media has a responsibility to cover the news based on facts, not just sensationalist headlines.

Initial reports of a Mexican prison gang green-lighting attacks on all black inmates as a cause for the riots have been widely discounted and argued; yet the hype of race wars has remained.

The reality is that feuds that begin between specific gangs escalate into full-scale race riots because the inmates, who are separated by race, have to rely on the strength of numbers for survival during any conflict.

So where are all these reports of black and brown hate coming from? I guess the truth just doesn't bring in all that shock value.

The media has a responsibility to cover news based on facts, not just sensationalist headlines.

With so much at stake on both the streets and the prisons, it's important that the situation be reported accurately so that it doesn't add fuel to an already vicious fire.

LETTERS

THE VALLEY STAR tries to print as many letters from its readers as possible. Letters should not exceed 300 words or they may be edited for space and must include the author's full name, major or connection to Valley College and contact information.

Don't Invade MySpace

The prevalence of MySpace on campus computers is indisputable.

MySpace is an Internet chat community that has gained popularity over the past year as a site to keep in touch with friends by allowing users to set up personal web pages.

I seriously cannot recall the last time I didn't see MySpace on a computer screen on campus. Which brings up a curious proposition: what is the purpose of the computer labs?

According to the librarians, they are strictly for academic purposes only.

I was recently in dire need of access to a computer for academic reasons, only to find all labs filled

to capacity.

And not to my surprise, several students were intimately sharing juicy details of the week-ends fling-ding on MySpace, and then claiming they were doing research.

It is not fair to me nor any of my peers serious about their education.

If the computers were segregated into recreational and academic use, fine.

But they are not!

The school should address this issue in order to better serve students.

Israel Salas
History Major

NEWS

3

'Speech'

continued from page 1

place points in all of the qualifying rounds with her informative speech.

"It was an awesome feeling to see all my hard work pay off," said Resnick. "The state championship was a big deal so it made it even more fun."

The rest of the team also fared well with two bronze medals in the duo competition, a bronze in drama and a

bronze in after dinner speaking.

"Rachel was clearly the highlight of the trip," said speech coach Duane Smith. "She is doing the best anybody has done at Valley in recent years and is arguably the best competitor in California."

Next week the speech team will compete in the national competition in Kansas City, where Resnick and the rest of the team will compete with schools from across the country.

'Denim'

continued from page 1

music of Carlos Santana performed by Valley staff and faculty members who are donating their talents because of their commitment to safety and peace for all the mothers, daughters, sisters, aunts and grandmothers in their lives.

Santana's Milagro Foundation has a history of supporting advo-

cacy agencies like Violence Intervention Project, a L.A. based organization.

"We want to invite people to wear denim with a purpose," said Weiss. "Talk about why you are wearing it so we can get the conversation going — so that we can solve the problem."

Weiss also reminds students to be aware that during spring break there's a media message

'Exam'

continued from page 1

are the first to not be allowed to receive a diploma or participate in graduation ceremonies.

Tens of thousands of students took the exam last week in what was their last chance for many of them hoping to pass in time for spring ceremonies. The test will be administered once again this month so students can at least get their diploma this year.

about behaviors being promoted that might increase the risk of unwanted sexual activity.

Denim Day at Valley is funded through a Department of Justice grant, USC and CALCASA.

The Associated Student Union is lending their support to the event.

Denim Day: Wednesday, April 19, Monarch Square, 12:45 p.m. to 3 p.m.

For more information contact: Reed Walsh (818) 778-5818.

'Protest'

continued from page 1

up with their own version of the bill that would allow some of the 12 million undocumented immigrants to become U.S. citizens.

The biggest group of protestors gathered at around noon in front of Los Angeles City Hall where Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa spoke to student leaders and then to the crowd.

"Our paramount concern right now is for the safety of these students," said Villaraigosa during a news conference on Monday. "I'm asking parents to make sure that their kids are at school tomorrow, ready to learn and ready to discuss

the important issues that they were here to demonstrate about."

Mondays protests were unorganized, with many of the protestors not really knowing where they were going or why, but they kept on. A lot of the planning for the protest was done on the Internet through websites like MySpace.com, through text messaging and on radio stations.

"I feel they have every right to do this," said bystander Jay Lee.

People lined the streets to watch the protestors go by, but not all agreed with what they were doing.

"We are just living our lives," said bystander and Grant student Gio Garcia. "Just because they

pass a law doesn't mean you have to go and protest."

All Los Angeles Unified middle and high schools were put on lockdown Tuesday to try and keep their students out of the march. Busses were even provided to pick students who marched and bring them back to school.

"We are marching to protect the rights of our families and friends," said protestor Monique Barraza.

For the most part the protestors were peaceful, with only a few arrests.

"They're noisy but well-behaved," said LAPD Chief William J. Bratton in an article in the Times. "Let them have their say."

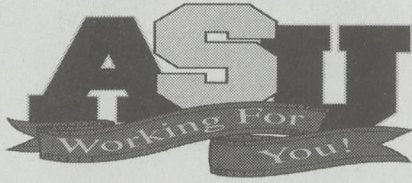
RETRACTION

In the "Valley Students Rally for Peace" article in the March 22 issue of the Valley Star, the Students for Peace club was stated to have started

in fall 2003 when, in fact, it started under the name Students Active in Political Affairs in fall 2004 and changed its name to Students

for Peace in fall 2005.

Also, "Clean Money" was referred to as an initiative; it is actually a bill.



Want to make a difference at Valley!

Apply for the Associated Student Union (ASU) and use your skills and dedication to better it!

Run for a student government position for 2006-2007.

Deadline to apply is April 6th.

Pick up an application in the ASU office located at CC102.

ASU Elections – April 25 and 26 – Monarch Square

\$100 - \$300 Daily

Become A Certified **BARTENDER!**

40 Hour Course * Hands On Training
Job Placement * Interest-Free Payment Plans



National Bartenders School

(818) 783-0300

www.bartendingworld.com

EARN \$70.00

FOR WATCHING A NEW TV PILOT!!
North Hollywood area.

Brenda's Recruiting
(818) 759-8021

Valley Star Advertising

may be reached by
calling 818-947-2576

INCOME TAX PREPARATION

Free Electronic Filing
100% Satisfaction Guarantee
Fast Refunds 1 to 2 Days
Income Tax Returns from \$35.00

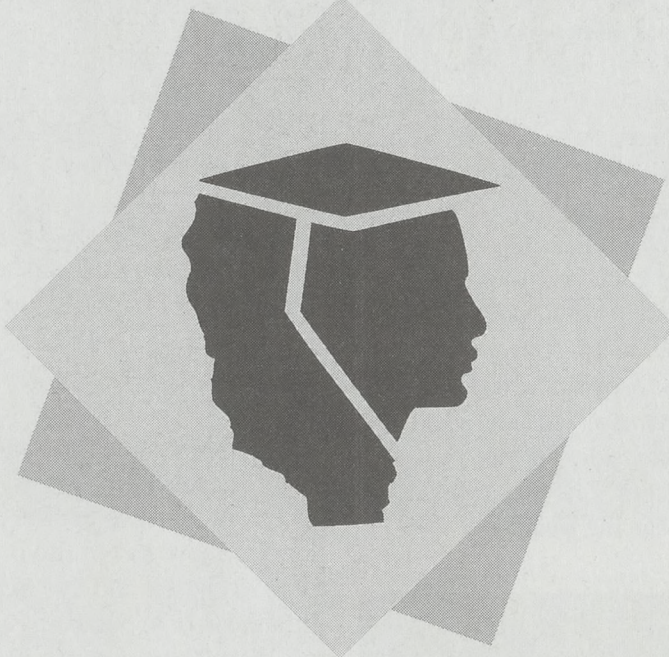
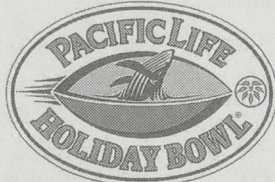
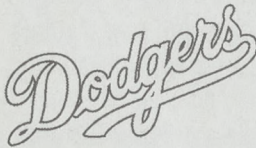
10% OFF WITH THIS AD

TOP PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

6356 Van Nuys Blvd., Suite 210
Van Nuys, CA 91401
(818) 376-0046 - (818) 376-0310
Se Habla Español

Welcome to Our Family

Supporting all of these fine California Institutions



U.S. Bank is proud to be the Official Financial Services provider of the California Community Colleges Commission on Athletics.

Visit us at one of the following convenient locations for all your student banking needs:

Encino Office

15910 Ventura Blvd, Encino, CA 91436

West Hollywood Office

8901 Santa Monica Blvd, W Hollywood, CA 90069

Beverly Hills Office

9595 Wilshire Blvd, Beverly Hills, CA 90212

usbank.com
Member FDIC

usbank
Five Star Service Guaranteed

WEDNESDAY
TO TUESDAY

Wednesday, March 29

**Nick Adams**
presents and
Signs "Making
Friends With Black
People"Book Soup Bookstore
8818 Sunset Blvd.
West Hollywood, CA 90069
7 p.m. / Free/ (310) 659-3110**The Art of
Bleeding: The
Poison Show**Featuring Abram the Safety
Ape, Margaret Cho, Jewel
of Denial, Penny Star, Dr.
Crosscut and the Magic
Ambulance Crew
4212 Sunset Blvd.
Silver Lake, CA
www.artofbleeding.com
10:15 p.m. / \$7

Thursday, March 30

**Thursday
Morning Concert
Series**Guild Opera presents: "Alice
in Wonderland"
Composed by Valley College
Faculty Member, Robert
Chauls**"Dracula"**
Skirball Culture
Center2701 N. Sepulveda Blvd.,
Los Angeles CA 90049
(866) 468-3399
www.ticketweb.com
7:30 p.m. / \$10 General,
\$6 Students

Friday March 31

**Movie Releases**"Basic Instinct 2" (R)
"Ice Age: The Meltdown"
(PG)
"Slither" (R)
"ATL" (PG-13)
"Hard Candy" (R)
"Brick" (R)

Saturday, April 1

**No Age, Mika
Miko, BARR,
Abe Vigoda,
Matt And Kim,
Meneguar, Knit
Witch**The Smell
247 So. Main Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012
8:00 p.m. / \$5 / All Ages

Tuesday, April 4

**Aggrolites,
Blue Collar
Special,
Bombshells,
Dr. Mad Vibe
Orchestra**1822 Sunset Blvd.
Echo Park, CA
7 p.m. / \$5 / All AgesCAREER / TRANSFER
CENTER**Thursday, March 30**
College and Majors Fair
Monarch Square 10 a.m. to 1
p.m. Come talk to representa-
tives from four year colleges and
departments on campus about
transfer opportunities, majors
and careers**Monday, April 3**
CSU Dominguez Hills rep 10
a.m. to 1 p.m.**Tuesday, April 4**
Undecided Major/Career
Workshop 1 p.m.**Wednesday, April 5**
UCLA Financial Aid Rep 1:30
p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Undecided Major/Career
Workshop 5:30 p.m.Deadline to reserve your spot
for the free bus trip to CSULA is
Friday, April 7All activities in career/transfer
center(adm. 126) (818) 947-2646

New Musical To Appear at Mainstage Theater

ALEX FAYVIL / VALLEY STAR
ALONE IN A CROWDED ROOM - Carly Turner stands in the middle of a dance
number during rehearsals for the upcoming musical, "Steel Pier."■ "Steel Pier" shines
light on overshadowed
work from the cre-
ators of "Chicago" and
"Cabaret."BY LAGINA PHILLIPS
MANAGING EDITORThough this is her first
time stage-managing at Valley
College's Mainstage Theater,
Alex Nadjarian is no stranger
to the stage. "Steel Pier"
will make her sixteenth stage-
managing gig since middle
school.Nadjarian will lead her cast
and crew to bring the depres-
sion-era musical to audienc-
es for two weekends starting
Friday. Since the start of the
semester Nadjarian has made
"Steel Pier" her life and the
Mainstage Theater her home."I've been here every sin-
gle day," Nadjarian said. "I
live here basically."Since auditions for the
musical started on the second
day of the semester the gruel-
ing process has included morethan three hours of rehearsal
Monday through Friday.Department chair and
director Pete Parkin chose
the little-known musical after
seeing it on Broadway and
Nadjarian is excited about
bringing it to the masses."I'm hoping people will see
a show they don't know about
and love it," said Nadjarian.
"It's a Broadway show that
may not be well-known, but
it has great songs and I hope
people will walk away singing
the songs."The musical's 16 numbers
by John Kander and Fred Ebb,
the composers/lyricists behind
"Chicago" and "Cabaret," tell
the story of Rita, a young
singer and dancer who's strug-
gling to get out of the dance-
marathon business by compet-
ing in one last marathon at the
Steel Pier, the famed Atlantic
City attraction that flourished
during the depression, taking
people away from their wor-
ries.

"It's during the depression

but it's about the fantasy that
went on during that time,"
said lighting operator Hallie
Baran, who is eager to give
audiences a taste of something
new. "It's nice to see a differ-
ent look at Kander and Ebb.
Everyone knows 'Chicago' and
'Cabaret,' but ['Steel Pier'] is
different than the other two ...
it's not as raunchy as the other
two."The 22-member cast is
led by first-time Mainstage
Theater performer Darius
Shipp and Carly Turner, who
also starred in last semester's
Horseshoe Theater production
"Dames at Sea.""Everyone involved is a
triple threat - singing, danc-
ing and acting," said Baran.
"We've got some great talent.
Some are really headed for
Broadway.""Steel Pier" will run at
Valley's Mainstage Theater
March 31 and April 1, 7 and
8. To reserve tickets or for
more information call (818)
947-2790.Funny Bones Tickled at
Valley Horseshoe Theater■ Associated Student
Union hosted "Comedy
Nite" at Valley College.BY GREG KANDAHARIAN
STAFF WRITERThree comedians poked, prod-
ded and sparred with the audience
last Thursday during the Associated
Student Union's "Comedy Nite,"
a two-hour comedy show at the
Horseshoe Theater.Hosted by the ASU's
Commissioner of Student and
Social Affairs Melik Melikyan,
three professional stand-up com-
edians, Sam Tripoli, Ty Barnett
and Sebastian Maniscalco, put on
a show for the 44 people in atten-
dance. Each of the three com-
edians were prefaced by Don the
part-time comedian and air traffic
controller, who MC'd the night
and took the liberty of firing
friendly jabs at the crowd.The comedians were top-
notch performers who have been
featured on the "Late Late Show
with Craig Kilborn," "Premium
Blend" and "Comedy Central
Presents." The show started when
Tripoli took the stage. Tripoli,
an Armenian-Sicilian American,
mocked everything from his own
national background to Valley
College's mascot."The Wal-Marts?" he joked
when asking what Valley's mas-
cot was. "The Valley Wal-Marts?"What is that a big yellow dot that
goes around slashing prices? Must
be a lot of them around here."Barnett had a hard time
matching the energy Tripoli cre-
ated in the room and his slower
tempo style of comedy made the
crowd wary but gave the night a
great contrast. Barnett, an African-
American who has been featured
on Comedy Central was eager to
take the challenge."This is great, this is great,"
said Barnett looking at the crowd.
"A hundred years ago this would
have been an auction."By the time Maniscalco took
the stage, the electronics at the
Horseshoe Theater had deterio-
rated. Maniscalco took the mic and
it went out on him. Like a true pro-
fessional and with a bit of macho
flair, he put the mic aside and per-
formed his whole routine without
it. Coincidentally, a major part of his
routine was about electronics."Technology, isn't it great,"
said Maniscalco as he gave the mic
another try. "Is this thing on? Ah,
forget it."Maniscalco finished the night
with a bang and showed some
great comedy chops, leaving the
audience with a feeling of satisfac-
tion and awe for the night.Technical difficulties and ver-
bal assaults did not stop the audi-
ence from enjoying a night of
knee-slapping laughter.ARTAK AVVAZYAN / VALLEY STAR
BODY LANGUAGE - Stand-up comedian Sebastian Maniscalco expresses himself
through movement after his microphone malfunctions at the ASU's "Comedy Nite."

VALLEY PEOPLE

It's a Big Show For a Big Mouth

BY SEDA TERZIAN
STAFF WRITERA board bursting with hun-
dreds of buttons and gadgets,
a microphone emanating from
the ceiling and the sounds of
rock 'n' roll play as background
for a slideshow of wanted
criminals, mug shots and pub-
lic service announcements on
Adelphia channel 25 during the
Valley College radio station
broadcast.Behind a large, foggy win-
dow sits Daniel Heiss, the 19-
year-old broadcasting major,
about to go live on the air.
The animated expressions on
his face are accented by a back-
ward blue Dodgers baseball
cap crushing his curly golden-
blonde locks. Heiss looks at
home and experiences a natural
high while on the air."His energy is so high I tell
him to take it down a notch, he
always goes that extra mile,"
said Station Manager Denise
Mendez.With a title definitive of
what the show is all about
"The Daniel Heiss Show" airs
Thursdays on KVCM from 2 to
3 p.m. It's an extension of his
loud personality and opinion-
ated nature. Heiss says that the
only time he is funny is when
he is not trying to be. His motto
on the show and in life is to be
true to oneself and live freely in
moments of spontaneity.On Thursday, Heiss went
live for the fourth time this
semester with "Welcome to the
Jungle" by Guns N' Roses pro-
ceeded by more heavy metal
and even some oldies by Elvis.
Heiss inserted some words
between the music, making
jokes and talking with other
Valley DJs with no plan or pre-
viously drafted questions."Personality comes from
the heart, not from a script,"
said Heiss. The most planning
he does is to outline certain
topics to cover after conduct-
ing research on the subject of
the week. But he never estab-
lishes a set script. He can talk
non-stop for hours and speak
of interesting things in the pro-
cess.During the two semesters
that Heiss has been a Valley DJ,
he has discussed some unortho-
dox and creative topics such as
mail order brides, a nude Bible
calendar and the bird flu. Once
he had a homosexual man call
in and speak about how he
hates other homosexuals andled him to join the speech
and debate team this semes-
ter. Though Heiss only had
one previous speech class he
recently participated in a state-
wide speech and debate com-
petition where he competed in
two challenges; a duo perfor-
mance in which he and anotherDANIEL KANE / VALLEY STAR
JOKER'S WILD - Nineteen-year-old broadcasting major Daniel Heiss engages in
zany and mischievous discourse on "The Daniel Heiss Show" Thursdays from 2 to
3 p.m. on KVCM Adelphia channel 25.on another show he conducted
a "Stupid Joke Contest." People
called in to tell the worst jokes
that Heiss himself had never
heard before."I talk about everything on
my show," says Heiss. "It really
depends on what kind of mood
I'm in."Heiss obviously has a niche
for stirring controversy and
discussing strange issues. He
looks up to some of the radio
talk show greats like Howard
Stern and Adam Carolla, but
he does not aspire to fill their
shoes. He wants to be the first
Daniel Heiss."Daniel is very eccentric,
jolly and honestly he's com-
pletely crazy and funny," said
Lucy Boy, a communications
major and friend of Heiss. "He's
got a very passionate personal-
ity, and he's a great actor, full
of energy, and a very sweet per-
son." Boy has seen Heiss per-
form for speech competitions
and says that he becomes very
involved in what he's doing
and gives a very convincing
performance.

His love for spoken word

student acted out a 10-minute
scene and another 10-minute
monologue poetry recital."Daniel's got a lot of raw
talent and energy and he has a
way of exploding on his audi-
ence with it," said fellow team-
mate Chris Van Veen.This semester Heiss plans
to invite more guests to the
show, such as Valley students
in musical groups and other
Valley DJs. Heiss also uses his
airtime to help newly emerging
rock bands. He hopes to receive
more calls for requests and opin-
ions this time around. "When I
get a phone call it's like get-
ting 50 presents on Christmas
morning," said Heiss.Heiss has great provocative
speaking skills and a big mouth.
He can always be counted on to
say something sarcastic, witty,
smart, strange, or insulting.Heiss has a way of leav-
ing his mark wherever he goes
because of the absolute free-
dom he voices in his opinions.
What more can you ask from a
radio talk show host who never
has a quiet moment in his one-
hour broadcast.

SPORTS

SOFTBALL

Valley Falls out of First, Lands 6-3 in Conference



DAVID ELIAS / VALLEY STAR

FALL FROM GRACE - The Valley College Monarchs lost to the College of the Canyons Cougars Thursday 6-1. With the loss they fell out of first place and have a 6-3 conference record.

■ The Monarchs softball team gives up an early lead and can't recover in a 6-1 loss to Canyons.

By DANIEL SROURIAN
STAFF WRITER

The Lady Monarchs softball team fell 6-1 to the College of the Canyons Cougars Thursday at Valley College in a battle to take over sole possession of first place in the conference.

Valley starting pitcher Vanessa Hernandez fell behind early, allowing three runs in the first inning and two more in the second. The story of the game, however, was the offense's inability to counter and get the hits necessary in building a comeback. Valley left a total of nine runners stranded on base en route to the loss, dropping them to third place in the Western State Blue Conference. "We didn't get the clutch

hits we needed," said coach Frankie Garcia after the game. "We simply didn't do what we needed to win." Canyons cruised through the game behind solid pitching from Ashley Kirk, who was lighting up the radar guns with her pitch speed. She had three strikeouts and gave up nine hits through the full seven innings, and was a headache for Valley all game under the heat. Valley had runners in scoring position in every inning

except the sixth, threatening to spark the offense by hustling for stolen bases and sacrifice bunts. Each inning ended abruptly though because of the solid defense by Canyons, which improved to 9-3 in the conference. "It wasn't one of the games we're proud of," said Hernandez after the game. "It was a learning experience, as always, for us," said assistant coach Frank Sotello after the game. "But we'll get 'em. We play them two more

times this season. We'll get 'em." Valley will look to bounce back with crucial conference games in the next two weeks as they gear towards playoff mode. With a 6-3 conference record, they will have to play solid offense and defense if they want to make a return to the postseason. They will play a doubleheader at Bakersfield on Tuesday, March 28 and a home game against Mission on Thursday, March 30.

BASEBALL

Monarchs Conquer Seahawks in Western State Conference Rematch

By MARCO ELORREAGA
STAFF WRITER

The Valley College Monarchs defeated the Harbor College Seahawks Wednesday in a morale-boosting 10-9 win as the baseball team played with a heightened defense and a key offensive strategy of hitting the ball well.

The Seahawks didn't give up easily as they matched each stride the Monarchs took until right-fielder Leandro Dottavio secured the win with a grand slam over the left-field fence at the top of the seventh inning.

"I was glad that I got some runs in there because our offense hasn't been that good lately," said Dottavio. "I was glad that it went over the fence. I didn't think it was going out at first."

Although the team fared well throughout the game, the Monarchs battled from the first inning to stay one step ahead of the Seahawks, who battled with a plague of errors in the outfield while playing well in the infield, but that wasn't enough.

The Seahawks came out of the first inning on top with a 1-0 lead, but the Monarchs would answer back with three runs of their own at the top of the second as outfielder Ivan Gonzales brought home both Jordan Sisson and Dottavio with a grounder to center field.

"We've been up and down all season," said head coach Dave Mallas. "They've had

their opportunities to get down on themselves, but they haven't. They're playing with a lot of pride and today was a tribute to their hard work and not giving up."

The Monarchs gave the Seahawks a 4-3 lead at the bottom of the fourth, but Valley didn't wait long to reclaim it. Shortstop Grant Bomann got a base hit right before third baseman Thomas Cassidy brought him home with a double to the wall, which would tie the game.

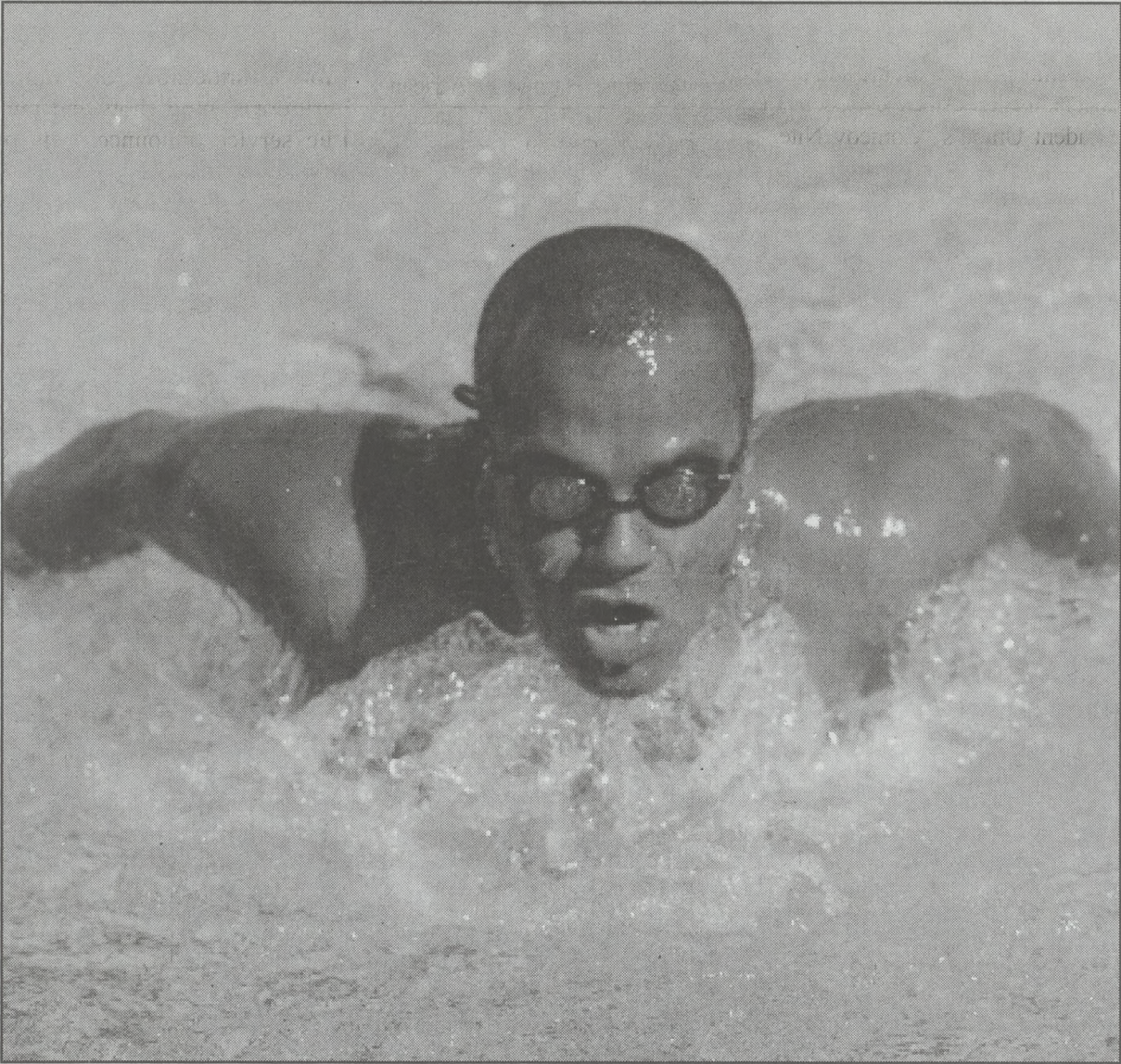
With Cassidy's tie-breaking run soon after in the fifth, Dottavio made the Seahawks squawk a little less as their mouths dropped in awe of the seventh inning grand slam making the score 9-4, Valley.

But Valley's dugout celebrated too early as the Seahawks took hold of the last two innings, establishing themselves as a team that could battle at the end. Two runs would come at the bottom of the seventh and three more at the bottom of the ninth by the Seahawks, while Valley would quietly score one more in the eighth.

"They're a quality club and we knew they weren't going to give up," said Mallas. "Hopefully, we can build off this. By now, we're going to start the second half of conference, so hopefully we can take this momentum and end up strong."

Valley will face Mission College next at home on Thursday at 2 p.m.

SWIMMING



DANIEL KANE / VALLEY STAR

COMING UP FOR AIR - Juan R. Sosa swims for the men's swim team, which lost to Citrus College Friday 120-96, although many of the swimmers finished in first place, especially in the freestyle events. The women's team also lost to Citrus, 112-97. The men's and women's teams will compete in their next meet at home Friday against Santa Monica College at 2:30 p.m.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Track & Field

The men's team competed in the Bakersfield Relays on March 18 where athlete of the week, Casey Locurto, achieved a personal best in the 3,000-meter steeple chase with a time of 10:47.4 and a second place finish. Marcus Hill came in fourth place in the triple jump with a jump of 41'10" and Clarence Walton came in third in the long jump with a jump of 21'5," which earned them honorable mentions for athlete of the week. Distance runner Michael Scotland came in third place in the 3,000-meter stee-

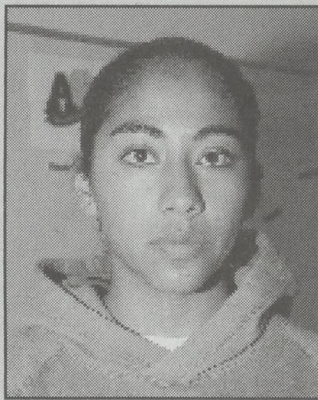
ple chase with a time of 11:00.8. The women's team also competed in the Bakersfield Relays on March 18. Women's athlete of the week, Alma Palacios, came in fourth place in the steeple chase with a time of 14:20.3 and a fourth place finish in the javelin with a throw of 88'2." Antoinette Burton came in second place in the high jump with a jump of 5'0." Athlete Cherise Mariano came in fifth place in the long jump with a jump of 15'0" and fourth place in the 4x100 meter with a time of 52.95.

Swimming and Diving

The men's team lost 120-96 to Citrus College on Friday, March 22. Swimmer Marc Hicks won the 1,000-yard freestyle and swimmer Eric Kramer won the 200-yard freestyle and 500-yard freestyle. Swimmer Eddie Tsivislavsky won the 200-yard individual medley, the 100-yard freestyle and the 200-yard breast stroke. The women's team also lost to Citrus 112-97. Swimmer Caitlin Howison won the 1,000-yard freestyle, the 500-yard freestyle and the 100-yard freestyle.

Stars of the Week

Track & Field



MARIA LOW / VALLEY STAR

Alma Palacios
Sophomore
Distance Running and Throwing
Athlete of the week for coming in fourth in the steeplechase with a time of 14:20.3 and fourth in the javelin with a throw of 88'2"

LAVC SCORES

Baseball vs. Harbor
(W 10-9)
Baseball Record: 9-19-1, 5-8

Softball vs. College of the Canyons
(L 6-1)
Softball Record: 12-14, 6-3

Men's Swimming and Diving vs. Citrus
(L 123-96)

Women's Swimming and Diving vs. Citrus
(L 112-77)

Softball vs. College of the Canyons
(L 6-1)
Softball Record: 12-14, 6-3

LAVC SCHEDULE

Thursday 3/30/06
Baseball vs. Mission 2 p.m.
Softball vs. Mission 2:30 p.m.

Friday 3/31/06
Swimming and Diving vs. Santa Monica 2:30 p.m.
Track WSC #4 @ Glendale College 2 p.m.

Saturday 4/1/06
Baseball @ Bakersfield 1 p.m.

Tuesday 4/4/06
Baseball vs. Bakersfield 2:30 p.m.
Softball @ Glendale 1 and 3 p.m.

Thursday 4/6/06
Baseball @ Glendale 2:30 p.m.

Friday 4/7/06
Swimming and Diving @ Ventura 2:30 p.m.

Saturday 4/8/06
Baseball vs. Glendale 1 p.m.
Softball @ Santa Barbara Tournament TBA
Track Azusa Pacific Invitational @ Azusa Pacific University 9 a.m.
Track Mt. SAC Invitational @ Mt. SAC 9 a.m.

Sunday 4/9/06
Softball @ Santa Barbara Tournament TBA

Monday 4/10/06
Softball @ Citrus 1 and 3 p.m.

Tuesday 4/11/06
Baseball @ Fullerton Tournament TBA

Wednesday 4/12/06
Baseball @ Fullerton Tournament TBA
Swimming and Diving Alumni @ Valley 2:30 p.m.

Thursday 4/13/06
Baseball @ Fullerton Tournament TBA
Softball vs. Santa Monica 2:30 p.m.
Swimming and Diving @ Pierce 2:30 p.m.

Friday 4/14/06
Swimming and Diving Pasadena Invitational @ Pasadena TBA

Tuesday 4/18/06
Baseball @ Pierce 2:30 p.m.
Softball @ Canyons 1 and 3 p.m.



For more sport photos and stories, please visit
www.lavalleystar.com

Visit the Valley Star online at
www.lavalleystar.com

GALLERY



READY, SET, GO - Thousands participated in Monday's walkout that started at Grant High School and ended more than 10 miles away in Panorama City.



NO HR4437 - Not only students participated in Monday's march, thousands took to the streets in protest.



BACK TO SCHOOL - School officials sent buses to pick up students who ended their march on Van Nuys Boulevard and Nordhoff Street in Panorama City.

Photos by Alex Fayvil Layout by Maria Low Text by Will Reyes

Concerned student protestors of various races and ethnicities united and marched through the valley as part of a statewide student walkout against HR4437, a proposed bill that would criminalize 12 million undocumented immigrants living in the U.S.



TAKING A STAND - Protestors gathered at the San Fernando Valley Federal Building to make their voices heard.



LAND OF THE FREE - Although more than 2,000 protestors peacefully marched Monday, police made few arrests.